GET SCHOOLED ON HIDDEN FEES

TUITION IS JUST THE START: METRO REVEALS HOW THE BILLS CAN ADD UP FOR ONTARIO'S POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS PAGE 3

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LONDON metro®

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

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ON THE CATWALK

Fanshawe College fashion design student Elizabeth Lynall, 22, of London is making a name for herself in the couture world. Some of Lynall's designs are being modelled on the Montreal Fashion Week runway after she was named one of 25 finalists in a national design competition sponsored by Télio, a fabrics and interior furnishings company. Winners will be announced Thursday while the finalists are in Montreal. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Short blitz, big results

Crime. Recent seizures considered a glimpse into city's illicit drug, weapons scene

ANGELA MULLINS
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Police Chief Brad Duncan got more than he bargained for during a three-week blitz focused on drugs and weapons.

The number of firearms seized — four handguns and a sawed-off shotgun — was "surprising" given the "short period of time."

"Our experience has shown that where there are drugs, there are weapons," Duncan said Tuesday as he released results of the sweep.

The blitz, he said, is proof "we have to continue our efforts" to crack down on drug trafficking and gang activity.

"If you put a firearm in a person's hand, and you combine that with drugs, anger, or violence, you're going to have deadly potential," Duncan said.

Officers from the guns and drug section along with the street-gang unit served 18 search warrants and netted more than $135,000 worth of drugs during the project.

Along with the guns, police seized five switchblade knives, three expandable batons, $12,000 in cash and two motor vehicles. Fifty-nine people are facing a combined 173 charges as a result.

The blitz — developed from information investigators received late last year — focused on addresses across the city, including a high-profile Jan. 23 raid near Adelaide and Oxford streets.

Duncan confirmed "linkages" Tuesday between the people targeted, but declined to elaborate. Some have "associates" in local street gangs, which are known to be bankrolled through drug sales, the chief said.

At a glance

- London police made their latest drug seizure Monday on Hyatt Avenue.
- Jason Lloyd, 32, of London, and Anthony Mills, 24, Toronto, face multiple drug charges.
- Officers found crystal methamphetamine, marijuana and crack cocaine worth more than $61,000. The value is not included in numbers police released Tuesday as they reported the results of a three-week weapons and drug sweep.

11 killed

No inquest into deadly van crash

One year after 10 migrant workers and a truck driver were killed in a horrific crash near Stratford, the chief coroner's office says there won't be an inquest.

Ontario's interim chief coroner, Dan Cass, says the deaths were determined to be the result of driver error.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drivers behave

Smooth RIDE during Super Bowl

London police stopped 340 motorists during Super Bowl RIDE spot-checks Sunday, and only four of these drivers were screened for alcohol consumption, with all four passing the test.

In addition, there were only 14 motor vehicle collisions Sunday, approximately half of the daily average. METRO

Volunteer work

Councillor sorry she nominated son for Diamond Jubilee

A London city councillor says she regrets nominating her son for a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee award, but still feels he deserves the honour.

Coun. Denise Brown put her son's name forward for the award. Brown says her 18-year-old son has accumulated more than 300 hours of community service since the time he began volunteering at the age of five.

Denise Brown
CONTRIBUTED

She says she checked with officials to see if she could nominate him and she was told it was not against the rules. The nomination for Brown's son was not accepted so he will not receive an award.

Brown says she feels it was the wrong move.

"That was a mistake and I can't deny I made a mistake," Brown says.

Mayor Joe Fontana put forward all 14 city councillors' names for the award, and council approved the nominations at a meeting held behind closed doors. Many council members have already declined to accept their nominations.

Council nominated nearly 300 people for the award, and while most won't win, all of them have been invited to celebrate the honour at a ceremony at the Hilton on Wednesday. AM980/AM980.CA

Funding cuts will be greatest challenge: New health unit head

Introduction. Incoming CEO also pinpoints car accidents and aging population in London as issues he plans to address

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Quoted

"We're confident the experience and skills Dr. Mackie has gained in his career will serve our residents and our communities well for years to come."

Marcel Meyer, chair of the Middlesex-London Health Unit's board of health, on the hiring of Christopher Mackie as CEO and medical officer of health.

Christopher Mackie, the new CEO and medical officer of health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit, addresses the room at an introductory news conference held at its King Street headquarters on Tuesday. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

After a nationwide hiring process that lasted six months, the Middlesex-London Health Unit has handed its reins over to Christopher Mackie.

Starting in May, Mackie, a 34-year-old originally from Winnipeg, will be the health unit's chief executive officer and medical officer of health.

For 18 years, and up until last September, Graham Pollett served in the role. Bryna Warshawsky is the interim replacement while Mackie transitions.

Looking ahead, it appears the province's cutback in health-care funding poses the biggest wall for Mackie to climb over.

"We've gone through almost a decade of growth in public health," he said at an introductory news conference on Tuesday. "I don't see that continuing over the next decade."

This means efficiency will be key in maintaining the health unit's quality service, he says.

"With shrinking budgets all around, it's going to be difficult to deliver the services we need to deliver while keeping the ones that are in place," said Marcel Meyer, chair of the health unit's board of health.

Although Mackie is largely unfamiliar with the region, having most recently worked for the City of Hamilton as its associate medical officer of health for four-plus years, he is already eying a pair of local troubles to tackle.

"We've got a big problem with injuries, car accidents, particularly in the Middlesex area," he said, adding, "London's baby-boomer generation is a little bit older than the rest of Canada."

Mackie also made it known in a scrum with the media that he has a strong passion for early childhood and environmental health issues.

The new health boss was a part-time assistant professor at McMaster University. Before arriving in southern Ontario, he worked for Capital District Health Authority in Halifax.

Student-geared complexes an untapped market: Developer

This rendering, looking south on First Street at Oxford Street, shows the planned Fanshawe Collegiate Manor on the left. Fanshawe College appears in the background. CONTRIBUTED ADAMASGROUP.CA

A planned highrise steps away from Fanshawe College could be the first of many student-geared developments for a group of local investors.

Housing built specifically for student use is in its "infancy" and Adamas Group is ready to make its stake in the market, said Twee Brown, the group's vice-president of marketing, communications and public relations.

"As long as this is a successful, or reasonably successful, project, there is definite intention of moving forward and doing other projects," she said.

City council gave the green light to site plans for the complex — dubbed Fanshawe Collegiate Manor — last month.

Assuming everything goes according to plan, the building will be ready to welcome students in September 2014, Brown said. Even one little hitch at this point would push the opening date into 2015, she said.

The 15-storey, 126-unit complex will face First Street at Oxford Street and is slated to include apartments with three, four and five bedrooms.

Staffed with security guards and built-in features like a gym, rent will be "competitive," Brown said. Adamas also plans to bring a management company with experience in student housing into the mix. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Other sky-high plans

Ancaster-based Rise Real Estate is planning a student apartment complex just north of Western University on Richmond Street.

- Officials there did not respond to requests for comment about an expected opening date.
- Site plans approved last month by city council call for a 19-storey building with 311 furnished, two-bedroom units.

No fee, no degree: Hidden costs all add up

Marta Sypien, 22, of London, a fourth-year nursing student at Western University, reacts to a statement outlining ancillary and tuition fees. The bill comes to more than $7,000 for a year, and that's before books, residence costs and a meal plan are factored in. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Part 2 of a three-part series. Tuition fees just scratch the surface of expenses for post-secondary education in Ontario

ANGELA MULLINS
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Need a lab coat for conducting your chemistry experiments?

How about a locker for your trumpet, having your diploma mailed or, heck, maybe you just want to graduate?

It'll cost you.

Tuition is just the start of bills students face in the halls of learning. Ancillary fees for everything from student clubs to mandatory bus passes are adding to the thousands of dollars it costs just to get a foot in the door.

Ontario post-secondary students are paying an average of $875 in fees over and beyond tuition, Statistics Canada data for 2012-13 show. Average fees have more than doubled since the early 1990s, despite government policies that banned some fees and were intended to give students more of a voice in determining the added costs.

Fees are levied by both university administrations and student councils. Some are good — like those that go toward financial aid, student union buildings and programming. Others are questionable, say some students and groups advocating on their behalf.

"The introduction of all these ancillary fees is kind of a back-door way of increasing" tuition, says Michael Yam, a researcher at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario.

The system is "sneaky" and not well regulated at times, but some students who have questioned specific actions have won challenges, Yam said.

Schools say they depend on fees to cover the gap between government funding and the actual cost of educating students.

"Universities can't just jack up fees for the sake of bringing more revenue in," said Bonnie Patterson, president of the Council of Ontario Universities. "If they go up, they are reflective of the costs of whatever service is being provided."

Fees, how they're regulated and what they buy vary widely across universities and individual programs. Universities negotiated deals with student governments years ago spelling out how and when students are to be consulted. Each agreement is different, which affects how things unfold at individual universities when increases are proposed.

By the same token, students at some schools may pay extra fees for things that other universities cover on their own, or don't even offer.

Rules introduced in the late 1980s and early 1990s prevent universities from collecting fees for things typically covered by tuition, such as testing. Now the province requires that fees cover only things that might be considered frills. These can range from class field trips to recreation centres.

In many cases, new fees come into play when professors themselves — or university departments as a whole — decide they want to enhance what's being taught in the classroom, Patterson said. Hands-on learning, for example, often comes with the cost of renting buses and burning gas. Universities simply don't have the money pay for those extras.

"It's true that the student may not know about new fees or increases from one year to the next," Patterson said. But, she added, that's not because administrators are trying to pull a fast one.

"Proposals still go through the university board, typically in March of each year. Often, they seem like very small amounts of money, but you spend an inordinate amount of time in discussion."

Fees, in essence, are "cost recovery," she said. "It's not about making a profit."

Q-and-A

Policies 'protect students': Ministry

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities defended its record on ancillary fees in an email exchange with Metro:

Some student-advocate groups say the government isn't taking action when it receives reports of ancillary fees being instituted in contravention of the fee protocol. Is this an unfair accusation?

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities ensures that its policies to protect students are followed by all institutions. … Our ministry has acted quickly to correct for any irregularities that may have resulted from the improper application of ancillary fees.

For example, when student groups brought to our attention that an ancillary fee being charged at two universities was inconsistent with ministry policy, we investigated. This led to corrective measures and the fees were reversed.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Exclusively online

What do you think of ancillary fees? Are they a cash grab for universities, or part of the economic reality of post-secondary education? Have your say at metronews.ca.

Speaking out. Students lobby for new fee protocol

Metro asked Rylan Kinnon, executive director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, for the student perspective on ancillary fees. Here's what he said in an email (responses have been edited for space):

In your opinion, which ancillary fees need reworking?

The first types of ancillary fee that our students have identified as being obviously unfair are graduation fees. Essentially, students who have already paid tuition and other fees to cover the cost of their degree are being asked to pay an additional fee to have their work recognized and be awarded a degree.

Another ancillary fee that we are concerned with is credit-transfer fees. These are charged in two ways, for assessment and on a per-credit basis. For example, students hoping to transfer to University of Toronto Mississauga or University of Toronto Scarborough must pay a $30 assessment fee to get in, which is in addition to the application fees they have paid to the Ontario University Application Centre to make the transfer in the first place. These fees hinder student mobility, and seem excessive when they are in addition to application fees.

Students also have concerns with the access copyright fee that was announced last year. Particularly, there have been some concerns that students are paying not only for materials that they use, but also for academic materials used for research, administration and advocacy. Students should only be charged copyright fees for the materials they use directly. Secondly, some concerns have been noted that some of what the fees cover are unnecessary, as these materials could be obtained in other ways and in some instances through open-access resources.

What actions are you taking to improve the situation?

We have provided some recommendations to the government on areas where Ontario's ancillary fee protocol can be clarified to better serve students and ensure that students are consulted on new fees.

We have asked that the government make changes to the ancillary-fee protocol to prohibit the charging of graduation fees.

We have also recommended that the ancillary-fee protocol be changed to (make) clear that evaluation is a tuition-related fee and students cannot be expected to pay for it separately.

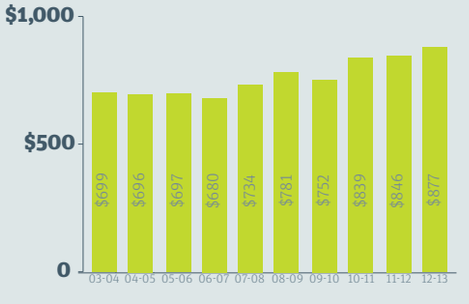
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Tomorrow

On Thursday, we examine ways for students to save money.

Contest: Do you have any creative ideas on how students can save? Let us know on Twitter (@themetrolondon) or at reader@metronews.ca and you could win a prize pack.

Average ancillary fees paid by Ontario university students



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

Canadian believed to be behind Bulgarian bus bombing: Baird

Dual citizen. Suspect in July attack lived in Lebanon but entered with Canadian passport

A bus is moved from the airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, after an attack on vacationing Israelis last July. IMPACT PRESS GROUP FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Canadian "dual national" living in Lebanon is believed to be involved in the deadly bus bombing in Bulgaria last July, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Tuesday.

But key questions remained unanswered as Canada coped with the second allegation by a foreign government in recent weeks that Canadians took part in terrorist attacks abroad.

"This is not a resident of Canada. It's a dual national who I am told resides in Lebanon," Baird told a news conference on Parliament Hill.

"I couldn't even tell you the last time this person was in Canada," he said, adding that the suspect is still at large.

The suspect entered Bulgaria with a Canadian passport and is believed linked to Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group and political party.

The suspect took part in an attack that killed five Israelis and their Bulgarian driver.

Tuesday's disclosure comes as Ottawa has yet to corroborate a claim by Algeria that at least one Canadian took part in a deadly attack on a Saharan gas plant last month.

"We've had a more robust engagement with Bulgaria, and they provided more information," said Baird. "The situation in Algeria is just completely different. We don't even have a name."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

They got their answer

British lawmakers on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a bill to legalize same-sex marriage championed by Prime Minister David Cameron, despite strong opposition from within his Conservative Party. The bill must still pass a vote in the House of Lords. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Provincial partners

Sask. premier calls Que. a 'distraction' on health council

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says it's not surprising that Quebec has pulled out of a national health-care committee set up by the provinces.

"Quebec has been more of a distraction at this table than a constructive partner," Wall, co-chair of the committee, said Tuesday in an email to The Canadian Press. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terrorism

U.S. freer than thought to kill citizens abroad

An unclassified memo reveals that the Obama administration has had more lenient rules than publicly known for when drones can be launched to kill U.S. citizens working abroad with terrorists.

The government does not need evidence that a specific attack is imminent, only that the suspect is involved in plotting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Decision day: Consumers finally get their paws on BlackBerry Z10

Retail debut. First day of sales doesn't match mania around iPhone launches, but numbers are 'quite robust'

There weren't any lineups around the block, but Canadians finally had a chance to get their hands on the new BlackBerry smartphone Tuesday as the device went on sale across the country.

The company behind the once-dominant phone joined with Rogers Communications to hold a media event in downtown Toronto, where a small number of customers who pre-ordered the BlackBerry Z10 activated their devices in front of the cameras.

About 24 people showed up at the event, Rogers spokeswoman Michelle Kelly said.

But the fanfare around first day of sales paled in comparison to Apple's iPhone launches, when sometimes hundreds of people wait outside stores to be among the first to own the latest model.

"Twelve years with the same company and I haven't switched," said Joseph Santos, a professed BlackBerry loyalist, who works as an IT manager in Toronto. "Being the head of an IT department, there was a lot of pressure to go to an Android phone. I kind of fought them off. This is my last stand here."

The BlackBerry launch comes after several delays left longtime fans either sticking with their older phones or switching to a competitor's phone.

The new BlackBerry is expected to sell for around $150 on a three-year contract. Koodo is selling it without a contract for $550.

Albert Lee, a spokesman for Bell, could not provide any preliminary sales statistics, but did say the number of pre-orders the company has seen for the Z10 "were higher than any other BB (BlackBerry) before."

"We're seeing intense interest today — sales are quite robust," Lee said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Rosenthal, right, talks with sales representative Dan Marsan about his new BlackBerry Z10 at a Rogers store in Montreal on Tuesday during the Canadian launch of the device. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biggest customer base

U.S. debut set for next month

BlackBerry CEO Thorsten Heins, who was on hand for Tuesday's event at Rogers headquarters, said while he's disappointed the BlackBerry is not yet available in the U.S., its debut stateside next month will likely be helped by the earlier Canadian launch.

"Canada will be raving about the BlackBerry Z10 and consequently will influence the U.S. market," he said. Heins said the BlackBerry's launch into the U.S., the company's biggest customer base by far, is coming later because of the extensive testing required by the U.S. carriers and the regulatory process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.38¢
(+0.24¢)

TSX
12,745.65 (+28.02)

OIL
$96.64 US (+47¢)

GOLD
$1,673.50 US (-$2.90)

Natural gas: $3.40 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,979.30 (+99.22)

Burger scandal

Irish PM gets on his high horse

Ireland's prime minister Enda Kenny says the latest finding of horsemeat in products labelled as Polish beef is harming Ireland's reputation as an exporter of high-quality meat products. Last month, DNA tests on dozens of beef burger brands found some contained horse as a substantial ingredient. Irish investigators claim to have pinned the problem on Polish offcuts imported to Ireland for use as filler in factory-made burger patties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resource boom is outpacing Canada's environmental safeguards, audit finds

Canada's aggressive pursuit of resource development is exposing the country to heightened environmental and financial risks that are not being properly handled by federal regulators, a new audit says.

In his final report to Parliament after five years on the job, Scott Vaughan — Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development — said government is not keeping sufficient tabs on mining in the North, offshore drilling in the Atlantic and hydraulic fracturing in hundreds of thousands of shale gas wells sprouting up across the country.

Nor are regulators equipped to deal with major oil spills or an expected 300 per cent increase in tanker traffic off the West Coast, the report states.

Coupled with previous reports that question oversight of pipelines and the oilsands, "you end up with a portrait where there are some serious questions about the federal capacity to safeguard Canada's environment," Vaughan said.

"We know that there's a boom in natural resources in this country. I think what we need now, given the gaps, given the problems that we've found, is a boom in environmental protection in this country as well. Because these need to move hand in hand."

Quoted

There "are some serious questions about the federal capacity to safeguard Canada's environment."

Scott Vaughan, Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development

Instead, he found that in many cases government regulators can't, or won't, figure out what they are supposed to be doing. They are reeling from dramatic changes to environmental legislation, outdated requirements, confusing lines of responsibility and large holes of missing information.

At stake, he said, is Canada's reputation as an exporter, as well as the habitat of fragile ocean ecosystems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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J.J. ABRAMS IS A NEW HOPE FOR STAR WARS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Here's an idea:

The world is a dream and the dreamer is a guy named J.J. Abrams.

If you want proof, just about everything you watch starts in the head of J.J. Abrams.

Here's just a partial list: TV: Felicity, Alias, Lost, Fringe, Person of Interest and Revolution.

Movies: Super 8, Cloverfield, Mission Impossible, the reboot of the Star Trek franchise and now the reboot of the Star Wars franchise.

Episode VII

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century.

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century. He's the guy who is personally responsible for keeping Luke Skywalker and Captain Kirk alive and vital.

And also keeping Hollywood alive and vital.

While other directors and producers have been overtaken by a geriatric psychosis that causes them to produce the same Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger movie over and over and over again to empty theatres, Abrams is busily luring the multichannel generation back into the theatre with the consummate skills of a master showman. Not-your-father's Star Trek became relevant and sexy all over again under Abrams' direction and, not incidentally, grossed $385 million worldwide.

Disney, which paid Lucas $4 billion for the Star Wars franchise, is betting that the force remains strong with this one, and announced recently that Abrams will direct Star Wars Episode VII, which finally picks up where Luke, Han Solo, Princess Leia and all the Wookies, Ewoks and Jedi Knights left it long, long ago and far, far away, before Lucas the evil revisionist spoiled the whole thing with Jar Jar Binks.

If you don't think Jar Jar Binks was enough to bring down the franchise, you didn't read the reviews of his first appearance in Episode I: The Phantom Menace. One described Jar Jar as a "Rastafarian Stepin Fetchit on platform hoofs, crossed annoyingly with Butterfly McQueen."

It will be interesting to see if Jar Jar Binks survives to stumble again in Episode VII, which is scheduled to be released in 2015. Or thereabouts. Meanwhile, Abrams is keeping all those Mission Impossible and Star Trek balls in the air.

Not everyone is happy that J.J. Abrams has been given the keys to all their favourite franchises. The Twitterverse is buzzing: one tweeter alleges that J.J. Abrams' name is actually Jar Jar (for the record, it's Jeffrey Jacob) and another calls it "genre bogarting." But there is hope.

"As long as J.J. Abrams avoids Severe Blunt Force Trauma to the Head, these new Star Wars films will be WAY better than the last ones," says one fan who, you have to admit, has a way with 140 characters.

Speaking of franchises, I wonder if J.J. Abrams has met J.K Rowling…

J.J. Abrams may prove his critics wrong. GETTY IMAGES

The way the cookie crumbles

JOCHEN LUEBKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impostor strikes again

Stolen cookie sculpture found on horse's neck

German police have recovered a cookie sculpture that may have been stolen by someone impersonating the Cookie Monster.

Police spokeswoman Jacobe Heers says the 20-kilogram gilded sculpture was found Tuesday morning outside the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany.

It was hanging from the neck of a horse sculpture with a red ribbon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open, Sesame

'Cookie Monster' demands donations

The century-old cookie was reported stolen last month from the office of a bakery company in Hannover.

A local newspaper later received a letter demanding cookies be delivered to children at a hospital. The paper also received a picture of someone dressed like Sesame Street's Cookie Monster holding what appeared to be the stolen cookie.

The Bahlsen company promised a reward of 52,000 packets of cookies for a charitable cause if their emblem turned up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bahlsen CEO Werner Michael Bahlsen appealed to the extortionists to return the stolen cookie logo on Jan. 30.
JOCHEN LUEBKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Inset: A statue on the facade of the cookie maker before and after the sculpture was stolen. CONTRIBUTED

Bahlsen already gives

Biscuit bandit still on the lam

No suspect has been apprehended.

"I have the cookie! And you want it," the ransom note reads. "You must give all the children milk chocolate cookies on one day in February — and not dark chocolate." It's signed "Cookie Monster."

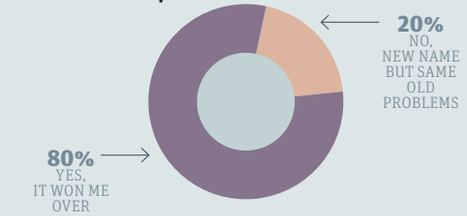
A spokesperson for the children's hospital called the prank blackmail, adding that Bahlsen already does so much for the hospital and coercion is not necessary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Will the BB10 save BlackBerry (formerly known as RIM)?



Twitter

@MattHelfand: #westernu fun fact: the people who write parking tickets on campus are also authorized to write you a ticket for eating food in the library!

@onterrioh: Ok I *think* I might have gotten rid of my 5 day headache... not getting excited just yet though.

@devinpowell: When you're running late for the 6 and the 'University' bus shows up to save the day #winning #Westernu #ldnont #LTC

@edco1edco: It's finally here! looking forward to seeing everyone in #LdnOnt for #edco2013 #ecdev Safe drive everyone!

@dan_domagala: That feeling when you get accepted... #mohawk #conestoga #fanshawe

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Ceremony

Harvard honours Sutherland

Golden-Globe-winning actor Kiefer Sutherland has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Sutherland will be roasted and receive his ceremonial pudding pot at a ceremony scheduled for Friday. The 46-year-old Sutherland has been in dozens of films but is perhaps best known for his role as Jack Bauer in the television series 24, for which he won Golden Globe and Primetime Emmy awards. He is currently starring in the television show Touch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiefer Sutherland. GETTY IMAGES

Showtime

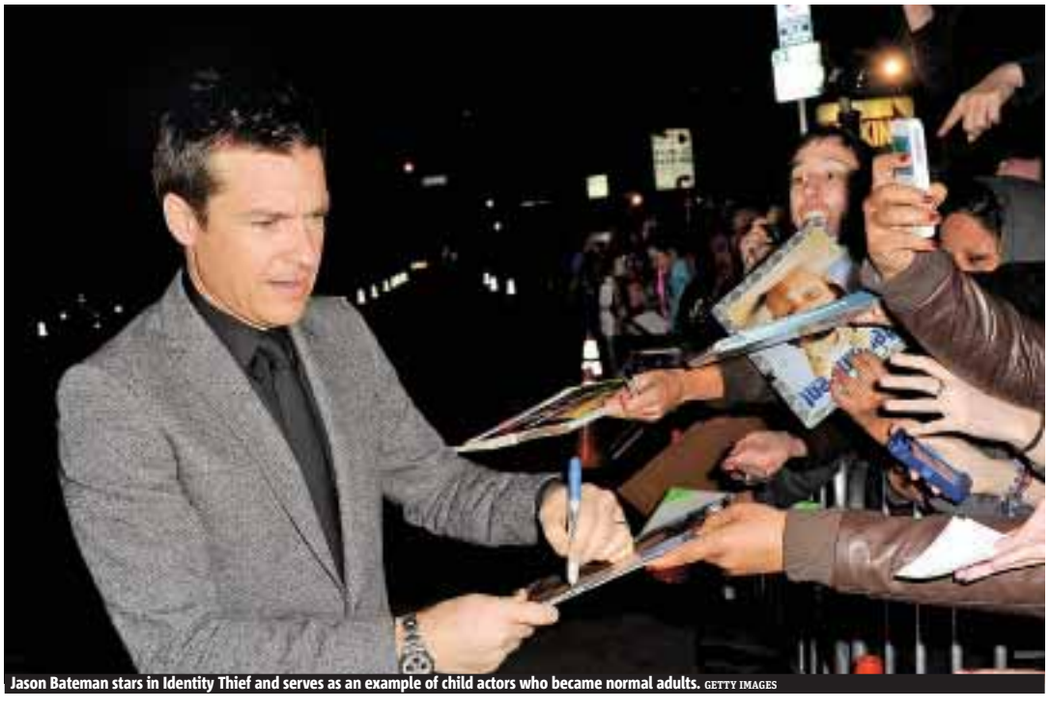
Damon to play parody of himself

Matt Damon is becoming a TV comedy regular.

Showtime said Monday that Damon will guest star next week on House of Lies. He'll play what the channel called a "maniacal megastar" version of himself.

Last month, Damon staged a mock takeover of Jimmy Kimmel's ABC talk show, tying Kimmel to a chair and acting as host for a night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jason Bateman stars in Identity Thief and serves as an example of child actors who became normal adults. GETTY IMAGES

Finding an adult Identity

Child actors. A look at those, including Jason Bateman of Identity Thief, who bucked the trend and became successful adult actors

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It's a pop culture cliché that all child actors grow up to become the subject of tragic tabloid stories. Sure, adulthood was not kind to Gary Coleman or Jodie Sweetin (although she does earn a point or two for the title of her tell-all, unSweetined), but there are dozens of kid actors who grew up to have fulfilling careers in Hollywood.

She's no Lindsay Lohan

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up."

Jodie Foster
Talking about the perception of child actors.

Jason Bateman is one of the lucky ones who made the transition to adult roles with ease. At 12 he debuted as James Ingalls on Little House on the Prairie and, dozens of credits later, this weekend stars in Identity Thief opposite comedy it-girl Melissa McCarthy.

The longevity of his career is dwarfed by Jodie Foster, whose 47 years on screen have seen her do everything from Disney movies like Freaky Friday to playing an underage prostitute in Taxi Driver to winning Oscars for The Accused and The Silence of the Lambs.

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up," she says. "I see kids everywhere who are totally bored. I've never been bored a day in my life."

Mickey Rooney's cameo appearance in The Muppets marked 10 decades of acting in movies. He was just a year-and-a-half old when he began performing in his parent's vaudeville act and made his first film just a few years later, playing Mickey McGuire in a series of short films. The audition breakdown requested a young boy with dark hair, so Mickey's mom rubbed burnt cork to his scalp to colour his blonde hair.

Long before Elijah Wood donned huge hairy feet and went off in search of the magical ring in Lord of the Rings, he kept busy as a child actor in movies like Internal Affairs and Radio Flyer.

It's hard to top winning an Oscar at age 11, but Anna Paquin has gone on to distinguish herself in indie hits like The Squid and The Whale and on television in True Blood. And speaking of Oscars, one of this year's best actor nominees, Joaquin Phoenix, made his debut at age eight, appearing on an episode of Seven Brides For Seven Brothers with his brother River.

"There are kids who get on a BMX bike when they're eight and they go, 'Whoa, this is incredible' and grow up to do extreme sports," he said. "It's the same for me with acting."

Highlighting their Joy, despite their Division

New book. Peter Hook's Unknown Pleasures looks at the highs and lows of the reclusive Joy Division

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Joy Division went to great lengths to keep the public in the dark during their brief career as a band. The influential goth rock band from Manchester, U.K., trafficked in album artwork that never featured their name, much less the faces of members, and on the rare occasions they granted interviews, their answers were usually evasive or flippant. The only thing for listeners to go on was the music, similarly dark, mysterious and cold. Bassist Peter Hook wants to change all of that with his new book, Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division.

"I was a little bit wary of debunking all the myths," admits Hook. "I just got sick of reading books about Joy Division by people who weren't there, and they always seem to focus on the dark and mysterious intensity of Joy Division, which is something that whilst I appreciate, I can't say that I recognize it completely."

Unknown Pleasures is rife with demystifying tales of a young band on tour for the first time. At one point singer Ian Curtis, whose brooding image would later feature heavily into goth iconography, is giggling at glimpsing a female changing backstage.

Peter Hook has decided to speak to the rumours about Joy Division in his new book, Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division. GETTY IMAGES

SCENE

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bible study group newest Hollywood hotspot?

Apparently the hottest new young Hollywood hangout isn't a nightclub but a weekly bible study group — which Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens and 90210 star Matt Lanter have reportedly been attending, according to Us Weekly. Gomez has even brought ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber to the group, which meets monthly at a Beverly Hills hotel. "Justin's come in before and his mom, Pattie, is a regular," a source says. The group is reportedly organized by E! correspondent Jason Kennedy.

The Word

Wallis' puppy purses make a splash on red carpet

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's a very slow gossip day and honestly, if I have to write one more thing about the feud between Brandi Glanville and LeAnn Rimes, I'm going to pack up my things and move to Vermont where I will spend the rest of my days knitting and raising cattle and never reading another Us Weekly ever again. Or raising Budweiser Clydesdales. Whichever.

So, today's column will be about something totally rad and worth highlighting: The awesomeness that is Oscar nominee Quvenzhané Wallis' puppy purses.

Wallis owns 20 of the purses, designed by Poochie & Co., and they've been a mainstay on the red carpet for the nine-year-old actress. "That's my signature," she told Ellen DeGeneres about rocking the accessory time and time again. And yes, expect to see one pop up (pup up?) at the Oscars. When asked by Jay Leno on The Tonight Show who she'll be taking to the awards ceremony, she held up her puppy purse and said, "This and my mom."

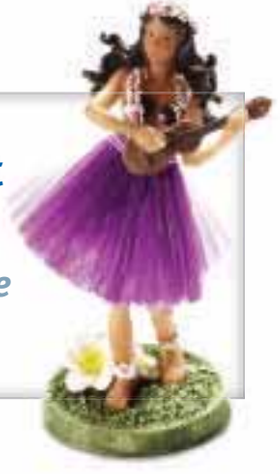
Cute, right? In Hollywood, where we force our girls to grow up much too quickly, it's nice to see a little girl act like a little girl. And carry a mass-produced purse that looks like a little dog instead of, you know, Gucci. You go, Quvenzhané Wallis.

Leonardo DiCaprio

Things heating up for Leo, co-star

It looks like things are heating up between Leonardo DiCaprio and his Wolf of Wall Street co-star Margot Robbie. DiCaprio was spotted getting cosy with the 22-year-old Australian actress on the balcony of his suite at a Miami hotel before heading out to play in the surf with Jonah Hill, Lukas Haas and several other women, according to E! News. The pair did little to hide their affection for each other despite the obvious paparazzi presence.

RBC Direct Investing



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Justin Timberlake

Timberlake: No disrespect!

Justin Timberlake insists he in no way disrespected ex-girlfriend Britney Spears, despite reports to the contrary, according to Us Weekly. At Timberlake's first live show in five years, he kicked off Cry Me a River — his breakup anthem written after his split from Spears — by telling the crowd, "Sometimes in life, you think you found the one. But then one day you find out that she is just some bitch." After the show, though, Timberlake took to Twitter to do damage control. "Wouldn't disrespect anyone personally. Ever," he tweeted.

Trump sues Maher for $5 million

Donald Trump is suing Bill Maher for $5 million over a charity wager, according to E! News.

Maher reportedly agreed to donate that amount to charity if Trump could prove — by producing a birth certificate — that he was not the child of an orangutan.

Maher made the offer during a visit to The Tonight Show after Trump infamously made a similar $5 million charity donation offer to Barack Obama that was widely criticized.

Donald Trump

Twitter

@ShiaLaBeouf
how are you guys doing?

@JoshRadnor
Pretending like I don't like 'Peter, Paul, & Mary' is exhausting.

@Bitchuation
When there is a sign posted in a bar that says WE ID ALL GUESTS and they don't ID you, is that bad?

@SarahKSilverman
Oh Jesus I just woke up did Beyonce win?

You've been camping out in the library studying for weeks and the thought of writing one more assignment makes you want to hurl your Easy Mac 'n Cheese. Fear not! Spring break is right around the corner, and whether you long for the beach, slopes or partying like it's ... er, 2013, here's the top five hot spots crawling with students who, like you, are willing to sacrifice a few brain cells for a week of fun.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

5 Spring break spots

VLITVINOV/FLICKR

Daytona Beach, Fla.

White sand beaches, warm weather and partying around the clock awaits students who want to let loose. The hotels cater to budget-conscious students so you can have a week of fun in the sun without dipping too much into your student loan.
Good if: You want the classic spring break experience.
Bad if: You want to feel rested when you get back.

Mont Tremblant, Que.

If you daydream in philosophy class about carving through fresh powder, then make your way to this popular ski city. Busloads of students will be doing the same, making the nightlife in the village a can't-miss during spring break. Think you'll break your neck on the slopes? Try dogsledding or tubing.
Good if: You want to cuddle up with a ski bunny at night.
Bad if: You underdress and get frostbite.

TREMBLANT PHOTOS/FLICKR

New Orleans

It's a gritty city that celebrates sin. February is Mardi Gras month and depending on when you arrive, the French Quarter will be bustling with parties so wild that you'll be repeating stories of that "amazing spring break" well into your golden years. New Orleans is a safe city as long as you stick to the highly populated areas.
Good if: You're into voodoo.
Bad if: Parades and scantily clad women scare you.

CLETCH/FLICKR

GPOO/FLICKR

Montreal

Students looking for more of a cosmopolitan experience will find it in the historically rich and charming streets of Montreal. It may not be 30 C and sunny, but there's literally hundreds of restaurants to cosy up in with some comfort food when you're not busy exploring an art gallery or boutique.
Good if: You're underage because the legal drinking age is 18.
Bad if: You hate winter.

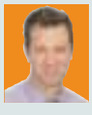
Cancun, Mexico

JTHETZEL/FLICKR

This list would lack credibility if it didn't include the sun and booze-soaked experience that is Cancun. The main strip has student-friendly hotels and the glorious weather makes lounging by the pool the obvious thing to do during the day. The exciting nightlife attracts people from all over North America and Cancun is safe for travellers. But like all party towns, it's wise to stay with your friends at all times.
Good if: "Tequila" is your middle name.
Bad if: You don't believe in cleanses, because your liver will need it.

Travel tips

On the road ... the safe way



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Worrying about personal safety is not at the top of everyone's holiday planning checklist, but one incident can ruin your vacation. Here are a few suggestions to ensure you return home safe and sound.

The public and transient nature of a hotel makes it an attractive place to commit petty crime, so be smart. If you are travelling alone, ask for a room close to the elevator.

Do not answer the door to an unexpected guest. If they claim to be a hotel employee, call the front desk to verify.

Use the Do Not Disturb sign if want strangers to think you are in-house. Ask if there is valet parking and use it.

Avoid large gatherings. Whether it is a celebration, rally or protest, pickpockets like to blend into a crowd as they search for unsuspecting tourists. If alcohol is involved and the mood gets heated, events with a mob-like mentality can escalate into a riot. Having your wallet lifted can quickly become the least of your problems.

Be wary of new friends. Without a doubt meeting people is one of the best parts of travelling, but not everyone has your best interests at heart. Keep conversations light and do not offer up any personal information, such as where you are staying or your cabin number.

Leave the bling at home. Valuable jewelry only serves to draw attention to yourself. If you absolutely need to bring that favourite ring or bracelet along, wear them only in appropriate settings and otherwise leave them in the room. Most up-scale chain hotels now offer personal safes in their guestrooms.

Avoid hitting the road. Car accidents are the number one cause of overseas injuries for travellers. Consider taking public transit when you can. If you do need to drive, follow the rules of the road and avoid night driving. The laws and cultural norms around drinking and driving are different in countries outside of North America.

Speaking of alcohol, drink responsibly. Its fine to let your hair down on vacation, but being on holiday is not a license to be loud and obnoxious.

Salad that packs a protein punch without meat: Hearty Grain & Quinoa

Edamame, grains and cheese ensure this unusual and refreshing salad has a main course level of protein.

1. Bring medium saucepan of water to a boil. Add edamame and corn. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 3 to 4 minutes. Drain; set aside to cool.

2. Meanwhile, gently squeeze pouch all over to break the rice apart. Tear top corners of pouch about 1/2 inch (1 cm). Place pouch, upright, in the microwave and heat on high for 1 minute and 30 seconds. Let stand in microwave 1 to 2 minutes. Caution: Pouch will be hot.

3. Carefully remove from microwave, holding sides. Pour into a bowl, stir and set aside to cool.

4. In small bowl, whisk together shallot, lemon juice, oil and pepper until combined.

5. Add edamame, corn, tomatoes and feta cheese to cooled rice mixture. Drizzle dressing over top; toss lightly to combine.

NEWS CANADA/ PC.CA

Ingredients

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen edamame
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen corn
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Blue Menu Whole Grain Brown Rice with Lentils and Quinoa Blend
- 1 shallot, minced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) omega oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) drained and crumbled light feta cheese in brine

This recipe serves four. NEWS CANADA

Drink of the Week

Tropical Peace Breeze Smoothie

Dreaming of warmer weather? Make this snack that features peaches, ginger and coconut water.

- 1 (14 oz/398 ml) can California Cling Peaches in fruit juices from concentrate
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coconut water or plain or vanilla almond milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) Greek vanilla, honey or peach yogurt, preferably 0%
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ginger
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Honey or agave syrup

Drain peaches, reserving 2 tbsp (30 ml) juice. Place peaches, reserved peach juice, coconut water or almond milk, yogurt, vanilla, ginger and nutmeg in a blender. Blend until smooth. If you wish, sweeten with honey or agave syrup.

NEWS CANADA/ CALCLINGPEACH.CA

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No Joke!
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COMEDY RADIO

Fiesta starter: Mexican Party Potato Salad

Canned-cream-style corn gives this potato salad a delectable creaminess, without the usual mayo.

For added flavour, top with your choice of shredded cheese.

This salad can be made and refrigerated one day ahead. It's perfect for potlucks and parties.

This recipe serves 10. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

- 3 lb (1.5 kg) Yukon Gold potatoes, scrubbed and cut in 3/4 (2 cm) cubes
- 1 can (540 ml) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup (250 ml) diced red onion
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) diced sweet red pepper
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) finely chopped green onion
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) chopped fresh coriander
- 1 can (398 ml) cream-style corn
- Quarter jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped (optional)
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt

1. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil over medium-high heat. Add potatoes; once water returns to boil, reduce heat to medium. Cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until tender. Drain; transfer to baking sheet to cool completely.

2. Meanwhile, in extra large bowl combine black beans, red onion, red pepper, green onion, coriander, corn, jalapeno (if using), lime juice and salt.

3. Add cooled potatoes; toss to combine. NEWS CANADA/ PC.CA

Welcome to a wild, wild world

The tree of life. In this time of employment uncertainty, only you can prevent a forest industry labour shortage

CASSANDRA JOWETT
TalentEgg.ca

If you don't know much about the forest products industry and its career opportunities, no one could blame you.

It's a sector that has flown under the radar for much of the last decade, losing as many as 70,000 jobs in the wake of a stronger Canadian dollar, changes in the global economy, the increasing prevalence of digital media, and the U.S. housing market collapse and subsequent recession in 2008.

More recently, however, it seems as though the industry's fortunes are changing.

There is increased global demand for traditional Canadian wood and paper products, and the innovative new technologies being developed here are capturing the attention of people around the world.

The only thing holding it back now, though, is a looming talent shortage.

Feeling lost in a web of we'll-let-you-knows? Your prospects might just be looking up. ISTOCK

Why the forest products industry needs you

According to a report released by the Forest Products Sector Council (FPSC) in 2011, it is estimated that more than one third of the industry's aging workforce — about 50,000 people — will leave within the next 10 years.

"It's hard to imagine that we're facing labour challenges after shedding so many jobs," says Jim Farrell, Executive Director of the FPSC, but the industry's long-standing public perception and image problems, coupled with its current demographics, mean there just aren't enough people to replace all of the baby boomers who are slated to retire.

The number of young people working in the sector is at a historical low compared to the overall workforce, so it may need to hire as many as 120,000 people by the year 2020.

About one third of forest products employers say they are already making significant efforts to target youth for recruitment into the sector, with many more sure to follow.

We want you!

The number of young people working in the sector is at a historical low compared to the overall workforce, so it may need to hire as many as 120,000 people by the year 2020.

Beyond lumber, pulp and paper

Canada's forest products sector is carving a new path for itself that goes far beyond the traditional industry staples of lumber and paper.

"There's more effort being made by companies as well as government to accelerate transformation in the industry," Farrell says. "We currently have eight research networks with 27 universities across the country."

Those research networks are developing products such as antibiotics and pharmaceuticals, biofuels and bioplastics, glues, enzymes and paints, artificial flavours and fertilizers — all derived from Canadian wood, which is a completely renewable resource.

"This is the kind of thinking that, within 10 years, could put Canada's forest products industry in a fundamentally different place than it was before," Jim says.

"We're going to need a whole bunch of smart, educated people to enter the industry."

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SPORTS 4

Knights look to clinch playoff berth

OHL. Though London is a shoe-in for the post-season, assistant coach insists team won't go on autopilot

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

With some help and a victory of their own, the London Knights can punch their ticket to the 2013 Ontario Hockey League post-season as early as Thursday night.

The Knights, who lead the OHL with 81 points through 51 games and have had playoff tickets on sale since Jan. 19, welcome the Sarnia Sting to town on Thursday. The Windsor Spitfires, ninth in the Western Conference with 49 points through 51 games, also play that night.

If Windsor loses and London wins, the Spitfires mathematically cannot catch the Knights in the standings — even in the extremely unlikely scenario where Windsor wins out and London loses out.

This rosy reality won't push the Knights into cruise control, says assistant coach Dylan Hunter. He knows better.

London's 2005 team, which Hunter was an integral part of, was 38-2-2-0 going into a game on Jan. 19. One point would have sealed the deal on a playoff berth.

But, they dropped the contest in Belleville, 2-1, and followed it by getting drubbed the next night in Peterborough, 6-2.

"I remember that, because they weren't happy at all," said Hunter, shaking his head at how worked up the coaches were afterward. "It humbles you."

The star-studded lineup recovered fairly quickly, and eventually hoisted the Memorial Cup. Hunter would prefer to skip the drama this time around, though.

"As a coaching staff, we're lucky (to have gone through a successful OHL title run last year). Guys who were 16, 17 last year are now 17, 18," he said.

The 2011-12 squad clinched a playoff spot on Feb. 12, locked up the division title on March 8, then claimed first overall on the last day of the regular season, March 17.

Justin Sefton, one of four new faces on London's backend this season, says the post-season is "in the back of our heads, but everyone shows up every day and goes to work."

Sefton was in the doghouse last Friday, sitting on the bench for a large chunk of the game. With a lesson learned, the San Jose Sharks prospect played normal minutes the next night.

"It kind of called me out a little bit," Sefton said. "(It made me) bring my game up."

Sitting pretty

81

The number of points the Knights have atop the OHL standings through 51 games.

Quoted

"As a coaching staff, we're lucky (to have gone through a successful OHL title run last year). Guys who were 16, 17 last year are now 17, 18."

Knights assistant coach Dylan Hunter on his team's maturity.

London Knights netminder Anthony Stolarz keeps an eye on a wandering puck during practice at Budweiser Gardens on Tuesday. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Finalizing proposal

Memorial Cup bid update

The London Knights were putting the finishing touches on its 2014 Memorial Cup bid on Tuesday.

Other teams supposedly interested in throwing their hat into the ring in hopes of hosting the event are the Windsor Spitfires, Guelph Storm and Barrie Colts. The submission deadline is next Monday.

Knights governor Trevor Whiffen says $10 million to $14 million in spinoffs was generated when London hosted the national championship nine years ago.

Although a nine-year gap between events is relatively small and will draw criticism, the cities of Montreal and Portland, Ore., have managed to host a pair of Cups each over three-year periods in the 1970s and 1980s, respectively.

Skiing

Crash costs Vonn the rest of season

The U.S. Ski Team says Lindsey Vonn has torn the ACL and MCL in her right knee and also has a broken bone after a horrific crash Tuesday at the world championships.

The team says Vonn will undergo surgery and will miss the rest of this season but is expected to return in time for the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Vonn lost balance on her right leg while landing a jump, flipped over in the air and landed on her backside as she smashed through a gate before coming to a halt.

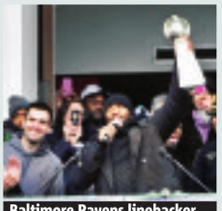
Vonn received medical treatment on the slope for 12 minutes before being taken by helicopter to a hospital in Schladming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Ravens celebrate Super Bowl win

Baltimore celebrated with its Super Bowl champion Ravens on Tuesday, with thousands of fans in purple lining the streets of Charm City and packing the team's stadium for a party.

In the parade, retiring linebacker Ray Lewis had a position of honour at the end of the procession, flanked by a mounted police unit and officers on foot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis speaks to fans during the celebration. GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The 2013 Mini Paceman

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Fuel economy

The little hatchback's fuel-consumption estimate of 7.4 l/100 km in the city and 5.7 on the highway (for the base 1.6) is impressive. Note that all Paceman engines require more expensive premium fuel that offsets some of the perceived efficiency.

It's very roomy in the trunk.

2013 Mini Paceman

- **Type.** Two-door, front-, AWD-compact hatchback
- **Engine (hp).** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-218)
- **Transmission.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $28,550

Engine

Under the hood it's a case of if you've seen one Mini you've seen them all as the available engines are offered in all seven Mini body styles. The base Cooper's 1.6-litre four-cylinder makes 121 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, while the optional turbo-charged 1.6 in the Cooper S ups those numbers to 181/177.

Design

The tough-dude front end design of the Paceman includes a grille that makes the vehicle look as though it's frowning at the world, but it surely gives it character. Other distinctive characteristics encompass teardrop-shaped tail lights and rear fenders bulge out slightly from the quarter panels.

Review. Somehow Mini found yet another niche

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

They might all, literally, be Mini, but BMW's Britain-based division is expanding in a big way. The latest edition is the Paceman, which is a two-door hatchback (based on the Countryman four-door model) that arrives this spring.

Where the Countryman appears as a conservatively styled wagon, the Paceman's sportier looks hint at its more playful nature around town, on the open road, or over rougher terrain with its available all-wheel-drive. You would think the Paceman's sloping roofline and liftgate would adversely affect stowage space.

Surprisingly, that's not the case, with the Paceman surrendering only about six per cent volume with the rear seats in place and about eight per cent when they're folded flat.

The interior includes four adjustable bucket seats — also adapted from the Countryman — that are especially attractive.

Of course the Mini's signature round dash gauges are very much in evidence, although not quite as in-your-face as those installed in the basic Mini Cooper or Mini Clubman. Rumour has it the next-generation Mini will adopt a more conventional layout, which would likely be a step in the right direction.

What is decidedly non-conventional is the Paceman's illuminated centre-rail floor console to which you can attach a cellphone base, cup holders, sunglasses case and other accessories. And it also comes equipped with the usual gadgets and extras.

The Paceman's unique mix of sporty style and practicality, with an available side order of rough-road ruggedness, makes it perhaps the best reason yet to consider parking a Mini in your driveway.

The interior is simple, futuristic and comes with the signature round gauges.

There are four adjustable bucket seats inside.

By comparison

1 LR Evoque Coupe
Base price: $62,900

2 Volkswagen GTI
Base price: $30,750

3 VolvoC30
Base price: $30,600

Fuel for thought: The sulphur debate

Driving Force. Cleaner gas means more steps during the refining process, which can get costly. Is it worth it?

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Canadians pump more than 200 million litres of fuel into their vehicles every day, and drive a combined 325 billion kilometres each year. But compared to 20 years ago, smog-forming emissions have dropped by 90 per cent, primarily due to more efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels.

"Fuels have much less sulphur in them today," says Peter Boag, president of the Canadian Fuels Association. "This has an impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the vehicle's emissions control systems."

Sulphur is a chemical that's found naturally in crude petroleum. Before it's refined, crude contains some 15,000 to 18,000 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur. In the past, gasoline could still contain as much as 1,000 ppm, and in the early 1990s, Canada's average sulphur content, at 350 ppm, was one of the highest worldwide.

Quoted

"Fuels have much less sulphur in them these days."

Peter Boag, president of Canadian Fuel Association.
On how much fuel has changed over the years, thus affecting price.

Starting in 2003, government regulations reduced the allowable amount to 150 ppm, with a second phase two years later further reducing it to 30 ppm.

"Today, gasoline has only three ppm on average of sulphur," Boag says. "And prior to 2007, the standard for diesel was 500 ppm, and it's now at 15 ppm. That's for on-road diesel, off-road, rail, and marine. All diesel now produced is what we call ultra-low-sulphur diesel, or ULSD.

"When you look at the growth of the heavy-duty vehicle segment over the last 10 to 15 years, that (sulphur) reduction has been an important part of emissions performance. ULSD has enabled new particulate filters that eliminate particulate matter, which is the visible pollutant (in diesel exhaust)," Boag says. Removing sulphur from gasoline doesn't affect engine performance and is strictly about the vehicle's emissions and exhaust treatment systems.

But while low-sulphur fuels may seem like a win-win, they aren't without their challenges. It's expensive to take sulphur out of crude during refining, which raises the price of production. It also requires more steps, which requires more energy. While there was a net improvement in air quality linked to the removal of sulphur in fuels, there was also a rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the refineries from the extra energy required to remove it.

It's worth it: There is far less sulphur in today's exhaust fumes. HANDOUT

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been extremely active mentally of late and your mind could probably use a rest. Try to treat yourself more gently over the next 24 hours. Even an Aries needs a break once in a while.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The most important thing now is that you don't change your aims unless you are certain it's the right thing to do. It is better to finish what you started, even if your passion for it is not what it once was.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Mercury, your ruler, joins forces with Neptune, planet of imagination, so you are sure to come up with some ideas. Whether they can do something for you remains to be seen. Never stop thinking.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Watch what you say today because you don't want to let slip information that others have no right to know — and which they can use against you. Be wary of people who try to talk to you about personal matters.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your judgment could be a bit off target today, so be careful if someone approaches you with a plan to make money. It could be they are genuine but unless you are sure it might be wise to give it a miss.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Even if you are the sort of Virgo who is good at disguising feelings, you will still be a bit emotional today. Remember, it's not that others have upset you which matters but how you choose to react.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you act on impulse today, you could make a serious mistake. Then you will have to take foolish risks to try to cover up that mistake and before you know it, everything will be falling apart. Don't do it!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get plenty of advice from well-meaning people today, but deep down you already know what needs to be done. Stop wasting time discussing the issue and start doing the things that will change your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some things are important and some things are not. Do you know which is which? No matter how much your career means to you, it is your home life you need to focus on over the next few days.

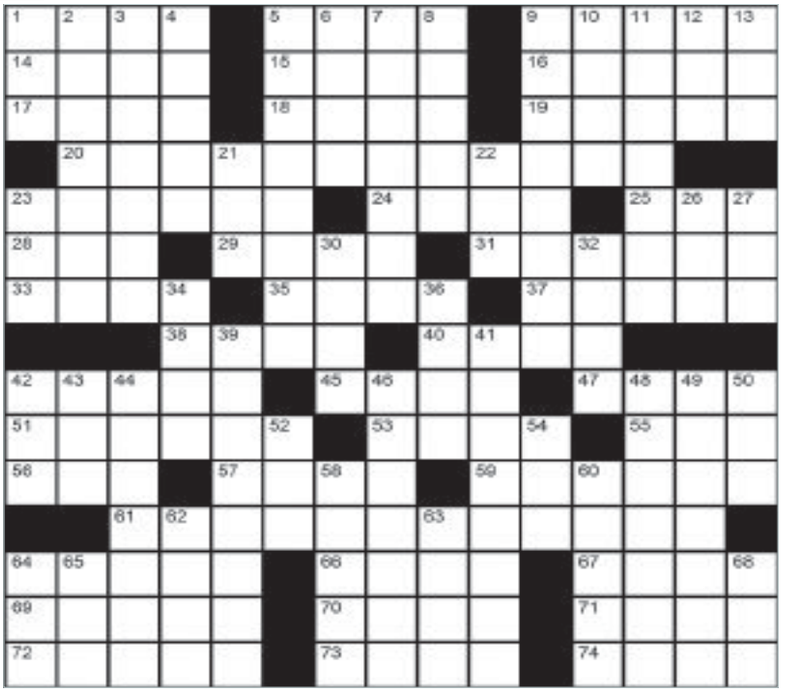
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be rather controversial in some of the things you say over the next 24 hours, so don't be surprised if people get upset. Be that as it may, you have a duty to tell the truth as you see it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be having second thoughts about a project of some kind but if you pull out now you could lose a lot of money. Can you afford it? Also, can you afford what it might do to your reputation?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune, your ruling planet, is strong in your chart today, which means you know exactly what needs to be done. But do you have the courage to do it? If you do you will make rapid progress. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

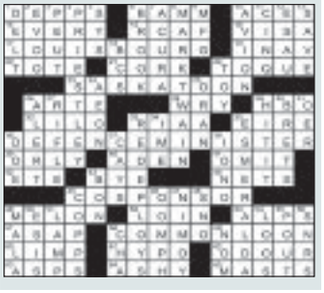
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Dot-__ (Web businesses)
5. Pelletier's skating partner
9. Calf-length pant
14. Take __ the waist, as alterations: 2 wds.
15. Do needlework
16. Utilize a crane
17. Designer Ms. Wang
18. __ _ fever (Ailed)
19. Smallest litter puppies
20. Mick E. Moose is this team's mascot: 2 wds.
23. Maple Leafs great Mr. Clark
24. Carnivore's craving
25. Energy unit
28. "__ Haw"
29. Jazz singer Ms. Fitzgerald
31. Dotted-line endorser
33. Gumbo ingredient
35. Long times
37. Foodie
38. Australian rock group
40. "Woodstock" gr.
42. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off
45. Ginger cookie
47. Consequently
51. Angel
53. Mr. Clapton
55. 'Ranch' suffix
56. Director Mr. Lee
57. Air freshener brand
59. Toronto's __ Phillips Square
61. New Brunswick, e.g.: 2 wds.
64. Paul McCartney song: "__ __ Was Lonely"
66. Jai __ (Court game)
67. Nons opposites
69. Allied beachhead site in Italy in WWII
70. Confined
71. One being taken advantage of
72. Country singer Ms. Rimes
73. 'Henn' ender (Canadian actress Jill)
74. Quiz

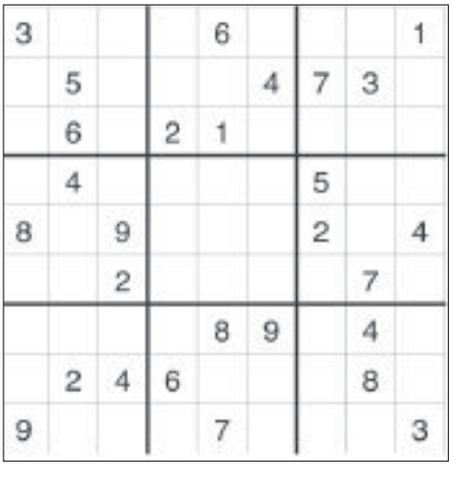
Down
1. Caesar's 104
2. Seven days: 2 wds.
3. Seafarer
4. "__ by Me" (1986)
5. Dubstep artist whose real name is Sonny Moore
6. Take _ __ (Rest)
7. Offensive __ (Football position)
8. Story, in a house, in French
9. 20th Prime Minister, Jean __
10. August: French
11. Canadian actor Gordon
12. After-Q queue
13. "__ Too Late" by Carole King
21. Maiden name indicator
22. Affirmatives, in Austria
23. Five Ws, just one
26. British R&B singer, Des'__
27. Munich's locale [abbr.]
30. Sports defeat
32. Music legend Marvin
34. Verdi opera
36. Incision leftover
39. __ Bonaparte
41. Michael J. Fox series: 2 wds.
42. Cape Town's home [acronym]
43. She-chicken
44. Wedding dress material
46. Sugarland singer Jennifer
48. Find new lodgings for
49. Some sauces
50. Suffix with 'Ball'
52. Mount __ (Sacred mountain in China)
54. Pen part
58. Severus __ ('Harry Potter' books character)
60. Freshwater fish
62. Identical
63. 'Christ' suffix (Some religious people)
64. Seasickness, __ de mer
65. Suffix with 'Meth'
68. Fixed

Yesterday's Crossword



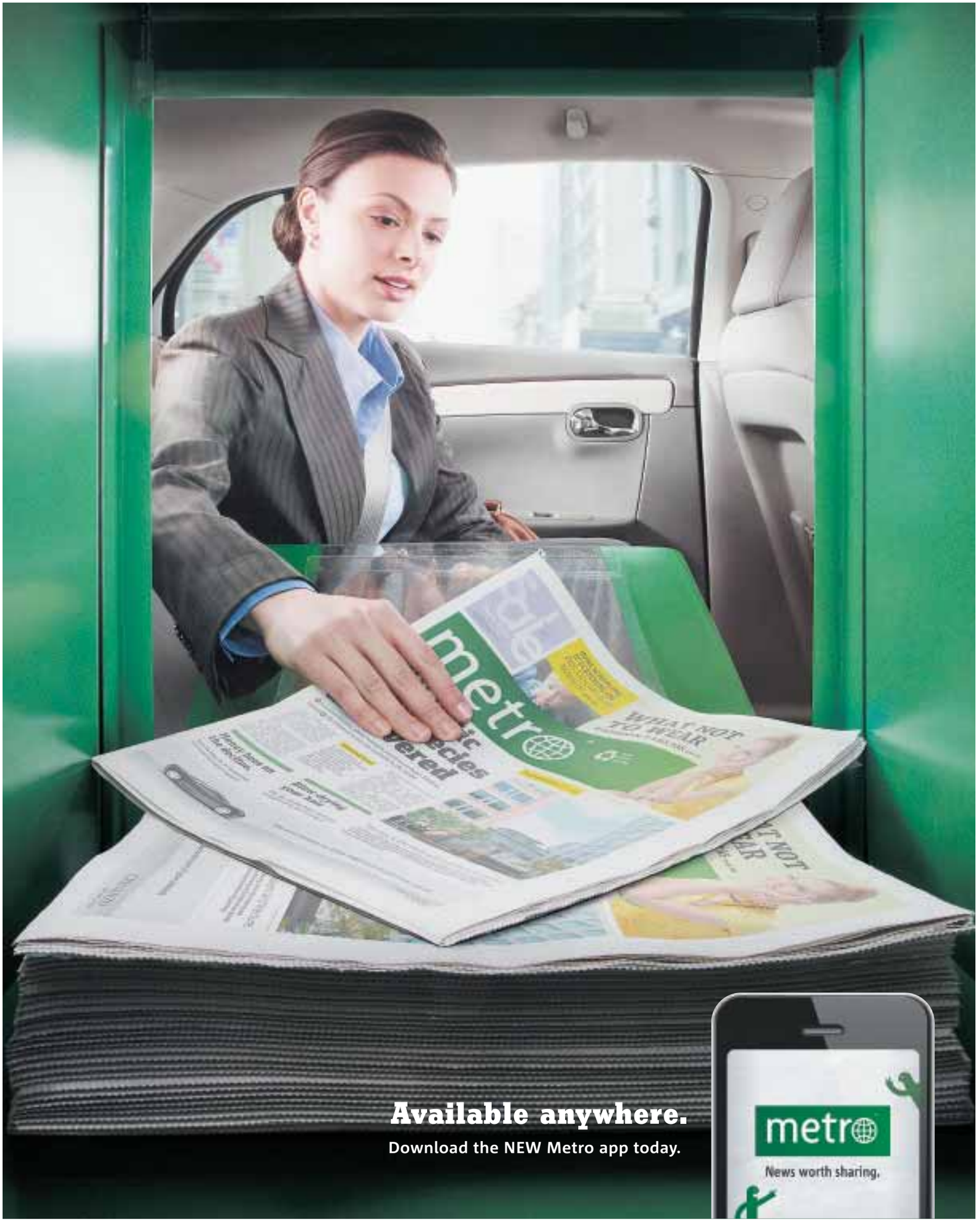
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	3	6	4	1	8	5	7
5	1	6	8	7	9	4	3	2
4	7	8	2	5	3	1	9	6
7	8	5	4	1	2	3	6	9
1	3	9	7	8	5	2	6	4
6	4	2	9	3	6	7	1	5
9	6	1	5	2	7	6	4	3
3	5	7	1	6	4	9	2	8
6	2	4	3	9	8	5	7	1



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